

Kenneth WHALING et al.  
10/664,915  
December 18, 2003

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is to perfect Applicants' claim of the benefit of the filing date of a parent application and conform to 37 C.F.R. §1.78.

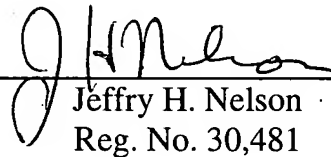
The parent application has been allowed by the USPTO.

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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